

CLAIMS:

1. A single vessel containing N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS), a water-soluble carbodiimide and a label containing an amine or a carboxyl moiety, these components being in a single vessel in dry form suitable for rehydration at pH about
- 5 7.
2. A method for conjugating label to target moiety comprising:
- a placing a label, NHS, and a carbodiimide in a container such that the three components are sequestered from reaction with each other; *not H₂O-sol. as in (1)*
- b storing the components in dry form; and
- 10 c hydrating the components to initiate reaction between them, wherein a target moiety is conjugated to the label.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the target is added at the time the components are hydrated.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the target is added subsequent to
- 15 hydrating the components.
5. A method of conjugating label to target moiety, comprising:
- a derivatizing a label by reaction with one functionality of a heterofunctional reagent; *toward what?*
- b placing derivatized label in a container with an activating reagent
- 20 specific for activation of the unreacted functionality of the heterofunctional reagent or its reaction partner such that the derivatized label and activating reagent are sequestered from reaction with each other;
- c hydrating label and activating reagent; *derivatized*
- 25 d removing the activating reagent in the presence of a target moiety, whereby the target moiety is conjugated to the label.
6. A method of conjugating label to target moiety according to claim 5, comprising:
- a derivatizing a label containing primary or secondary amines with a maleimide functionality;
- 30 b placing maleimide derivatized label in a container with a reductant in dry form;

Sub A1

No target added

Initiated

add target?

support?

does this work?

Sub
AS

c. hydrating label and reductant; and
d. removing reductant in the presence of a target moiety, whereby the target moiety is conjugated to the label.

7. A single vessel containing a label derivatized with one functionality of a heterofunctional reagent and an activating reagent specific for activation of the unreacted functionality of the heterofunctional reagent or its reaction partner, these components being in a single vessel in dry form suitable for rehydration.

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